



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/450,236	11/29/1999	KAZUHIRO EGUCHI	MAT-7867US	7329

7590 09/09/2003

LAWRENCE E ASHERY
RATNER & PRESTIA SUITE 301
ONE WESTLAKES BERWYN
P O BOX 980
VALLEY FORGE, PA 194820980

EXAMINER

EBRAHIMI DEHKORDY, SAEID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/450,236	EGUCHI, KAZUHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Saeid Ebrahimi-dehKordy	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita et al (U.S. patent 5,146,354)

Regarding claim 1 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus (please note Fig.1 and 2 column 2 lines 67-68 and column 3 lines 1-2) comprising: a writing medium having a writing surface where image information is written on said writing surface (please note Fig.2 column 3 lines 15-24) reading means for reading said image information (please note Fig.2 item 22 column 3 lines 9-12 where this item reads the writing material from the electronic board 21) Printing means for printing said image information read by said Reading means onto a printing medium (please note Fig.1 item 5 the printer column 3 lines 15-18) and control means for controlling said reading performed by said reading means responsive to said printing means (please note Fig.3 item 5d the controller which controls the entire function of electronic board, column 3 lines 35-38).

Regarding claims 2 and 7 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus of claim 1, wherein said Control means controls driving of said reading

means for synchronization with driving of said printing means (please note Fig.3 column 5 lines 15-20 where the controller controls the printing).

Regarding claims 3 and 8 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus of claim 1, wherein said control means controls driving of said reading means by temporarily discontinuing the driving for synchronization with driving of said printing means (please note column 11-20).

Regarding claims 4 and 9 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus of claim 1, wherein said control means controls driving of said reading means by reducing a driving speed thereof for synchronization with driving of said printing means (please note column 5 lines 13-19).

Regarding claims 5 and 10 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus of claim 1, wherein said printing means includes a plurality of plain paper sheets (please note column 3 lines 1-7).

Regarding claims 6, 11 and 13 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus comprising: reading means for reading an image information from a predetermined position (please note column 5 lines 11-15) said image information being written in a writing medium having a written surface (please note Fig.2 column 3 lines 15-24) a printing means for printing the image information read by said reading means onto a printing medium (please note Fig.1 item 5 the printer column 3 lines 15-18) and Control means for controlling printing performed by said printing means responsive to said reading means (please note Fig.3 item 5d the controller which controls the entire function of electronic board, column 3 lines 35-38).

Regarding claim 7 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus of claim 6, wherein said control means controls driving of said printing means for synchronization with driving of said reading means (please note Fig.3 column 5 lines 15-20 where the controller controls the printing).

Regarding claims 12 and 14 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus of claim 11, wherein said control means controls the print starting time of said printing means in such manner that it is coincidental with the reading starting time of said reading means (please note column 5 lines 11-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15 and 17-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al (U.S. Patent 5,146,345) in view of Wierszewski (U.S. patent 5,839,045).

Regarding claim 15 Yamashita et al disclose: An electronic print-board apparatus comprising: a screen having a writing surface formed in the shape of a loop (please note Fig.2 column 3 lines 17-22 where the roller 6a and 6b are rotating as a loop) a reading device for reading an image written in said writing surface by scanning it simultaneously when said screen is revolved the reader which scans the writing materials (please note Fig.2 item 22 column 5 lines 11-15) and a printing device for supplying of each paper sheet of a plurality of paper sheets (please note column 3 lines

1-15) printing said image on said each paper sheet according to the image information read by said reading device (please note column 5 lines 11-15).

Yamashita et al differs from claim 15 in that he does not clearly disclose discharging said each paper sheet which is printed thereon wherein said printing device includes a transportation system for transporting said paper sheet to a printing section, and said transportation system includes transportation time adjustment means for said paper sheet for allowing a printing operation to be initiated in synchronization with initiation of reading operation of said image by said reading device. However Wierazewski discloses: and discharging said each paper sheet which is printed thereon (please note column 10 lines 14-16) wherein said printing device includes a transportation system for transporting said paper sheet to a printing section and said transportation system includes transportation time adjustment means for said paper sheet for allowing a printing operation to be initiated in synchronization with initiation of reading operation of said image by said reading device (please note Fig.6 column 11 lines 24-67 and column 12 lines 1-10).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to modify Yamashita et al's invention according to the teaching of Wierszewski, Wierszewski in the same field of endeavor teaches the way the timing is set up between the sheets of paper being transferred to the printing device.

Regarding claim 17 Yamashita et al discloses: A printing method for printing written information that is written in a writing surface of an electronic blackboard to a plurality of printing sheets (please note column 3 lines 1-14) comprising the steps of:

(b) moving at least one of reading means and said writing surface to an initial position for allowing said reading means to be faced against said writing surface (please note column 5 lines 11-15) (d) reading said written information by said reading means, and printing said writing information onto said first printing sheet by said printing means according to the information from said reading means (please note column 5 lines 5-20).

On the other hand Wierszewski discloses:

(a) placing said plurality of printing sheets in a paper tray (please note column 8 lines 41-47) (c) transporting a first printing sheet of said plurality of printing sheets from inside said paper tray to printing means (please note Fig.1 item 24 column 9 lines 5-22 where the transporter ejects the paper and also please note Fig.6 column 11 lines 24-67 and column 12 lines 1-10) (e) Transporting a second printing sheet of said plurality of printing sheets from inside said paper tray to said printing means after printing to said first printing sheet is completed, and controlling at least one selected from tire group consisting of said reading means, said printing means and a feeding means in such manner that reading starting time for said reading means to start reading next written information and print starting time for said printing means to start printing to said second printing sheet are coincidental with each other (please note column 11 lines 24-60 and column 12 lines 1-30) and f) reading said written information by said reading means, and printing said written information onto said second printing sheet by said 23 printing means according to the information from said reading means (please note column 11 lines 61-67 and column 12 lines 1-10).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to modify Yamashita et al's invention according to the teaching of Wierszewski, Wierszewski in the same field of endeavor teaches the way the timing is set up between the sheets of paper being transferred to the printing device.

Regarding claim 18 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said reading means is operated in synchronization with driving of said printing means (please note column 6 lines 45-63 and column 7 lines 1-12).

Regarding claim 19 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said reading means is operated in synchronization with driving of said printing means as the 3 driving of reading means is temporarily discontinued (please note column 9 lines 5-15).

Regarding claim 20 Wierszewski A printing means of claim 17, wherein said reading means is operated in synchronization with driving of said printing means as a 3 operating, speed of said reading means is reduced (please note column 16 lines 47-65).

Regarding claim 21 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said printing means is operated in synchronization with driving of said reading means (please note column 9 lines 7-12).

Regarding claim 22 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said printing means is operated in synchronization with driving of said rending means as the driving of printing means is temporarily discontinued (please note column 9 lines 7-25).

Regarding claim 23 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method according to claim 17, wherein said printing means is operated in synchronization with driving of said reading means as an operating speed of said printing means is reduced (please note column 16 lines 30-53).

Regarding claim 24 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said feeding means transports said second printing sheet in such manner that reading starting time for said reading means to start reading next written information and print starting time for said printing means to start printing to said second printing sheet are coincidental with each other.

Regarding claim 25 Yamashita et al disclose: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said writing surface has a screen formed in the shape of a loop, and said screen may be Revolved (please note Fig.2 column 3 lines 17-22 where the roller 6a and 6b are rotating as a loop)

Regarding claim 26 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said step (e) includes a step of comparing reading starting time for said reading means to start reading said written information with print starting time for said printing means to start printing to said second plain paper sheet, and driving of at least one selected from the group consisting of said reading means, said printing means and said feeding means is controlled according to said step of comparing (Fig.7 column 16 lines 30-65).

Regarding claim 27 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of printing sheets are a plurality of plain papers (please note column 9 lines 49-67 and column 10 lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 28 Wierszewski discloses: A printing method of claim 17, wherein said plurality of printing sheets are stacked in said paper tray (please note column 8 lines 41-67 and column 9 lines 1-3).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Other prior art cited

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Akiyama (U.S. patent 6,462,831) is pertinent as disclosing an image forming apparatus and method used therefor.

Takahashi (U.S. patent 6,067,902) is pertinent as disclosing a stencil printer.

Aosaki et al (U.S. patent 5,220,436) is pertinent as disclosing an electronic coping machine.

Takahashi et al (U.S. patent 5,329,444) is pertinent as disclosing a work management system employing electronic board.

DiBianca (U.S. patent 4,901,100) is pertinent as disclosing a single pass color highlighting copying system.

Satake (U.S. patent 4,720,749) is pertinent as disclosing an electronic print board.

Nakamura et al (U.S. patent 4,727,431) is pertinent as disclosing an electronic print board.

Takekawa et al (U.S. patent 6,335,724) is pertinent as disclosing a method and device for inputting coordinate-position and display board system.

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy* whose telephone number is (703) 306-3487.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams, can be reached at (703) 305-4863.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, or (703) 308-9052 (for **formal** communications; please mark
“EXPEDITED PROCEDURE”)

Or:

(703) 306-5406 (for *informal* or *draft* communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2626
August 8 2003

KA Williams
Kimberly A. Williams
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2600